SECTION 2 IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

"The mission of the community colleges of Iowa in the 21st century is to provide exemplary educational and community services to meet the needs and enhance the lives of Iowans."

Source: "Shaping the Future: A Five-Year Plan for The Community Colleges of Iowa, 2006-2011"

Community colleges have an "open door" policy, which means that nearly everyone who applies may be accepted.

Each of the 15 community colleges offers comprehensive programs including Arts and Science, College Transfer (Parallel) courses, Career and Technical Education programs, training and retraining programs for the workforce of Iowa's businesses and industries, and a variety of adult education and non-credit courses for residents of each community college district.

History of Iowa's Community Colleges

Mason City schools established the first two-year postsecondary educational institution in Iowa in 1918. At the time this junior college was organized, there was no law authorizing two-year postsecondary educational programs. Mason City Junior College proved to be successful and was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in 1919.

Additional public junior colleges were organized beginning in 1920, and the movement spread rapidly, until, by 1930, at least 32 towns and cities in Iowa had organized public junior colleges as part of their public school systems.

In 1927, the 42nd General Assembly passed the first law authorizing the establishment of public junior colleges. The law permitted the establishment of schools offering instructional programs at a level higher than an approved four-year high school course. The colleges had to be dually authorized by the voters and approved by the State Superintendent of the Iowa Department of Public Instruction (now the Director of the Iowa Department of Education). Such colleges were able to include postsecondary courses of one or two years. The Superintendent was authorized to prepare standards and to provide adequate inspection of these junior colleges.

The Iowa public junior college movement reached its crest in 1927 when nine public junior colleges were organized. After the year 1930, no public junior colleges were organized until 1946, when Clinton Junior College was founded. In 1931, the 44th General Assembly approved the first restriction to the development of public junior colleges, prohibiting the establishment of a public junior college in any school district having a population of less than 20,000. The 49th General Assembly in 1941 reduced the population requirement to 5,000.

Between the years 1918 and 1953, a total of 35 different public junior colleges were established through the operation of public school districts. Some of these colleges closed, although 10 of the closed colleges later reopened. The enrollment trend steadily increased over the years with the exception of the World War II years. During the 1955-1966 decade, which immediately preceded the initiation of a community college system, enrollment almost quadrupled. By 1965, 16 public junior colleges were operating in Iowa and the total enrollment during the fall semester of the 1965-1966 school year was 9,110. Local public school districts operated colleges; a dean who reported directly to the local superintendent administered each. These institutions offered arts and science programs equivalent to the first two years of the baccalaureate program and a limited number of occupational programs and adult education opportunities.

In 1958, Congress initiated a development parallel to the public junior college movement. Title VIII of the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) made federal funds available to states on a matching basis to develop area vocational programs. To implement this legislation, the Iowa State Board of Education modified the state vocational education plan to make local school districts and Iowa State University eligible to operate as "area schools." This legislation included a specific allocation of funds to develop area vocational programs under NDEA's Title VIII, a designation of area vocational-technical high schools, and the authorization for tuition-paying students to attend these schools and programs.

The Iowa State Board of Education eventually designated a total of 15 schools as area vocational-technical high schools. These schools were also designated as area schools for the purposes of Title VIII, and were to be used to initiate programming for the Manpower Development and Training Act. A total of 1,816 full-time day students enrolled in postsecondary vocational programs for the 1965-1966 school year; the majority entered programs administered by agencies operating the area vocational-technical high schools or programs.

Even though public junior colleges and area vocational-technical high schools offered some opportunities for arts and science and preparatory vocational education, enrollment opportunities were limited for most Iowans. In 1959, the 58th General Assembly appropriated \$25,000 to the Iowa Legislative Research Bureau to conduct a policy study of the needs of higher education in Iowa. Included in this report was a recommendation to establish regional community colleges. The report also recommended the state pay at least half the cost of building and operating these colleges. As a result of this study, the General Assembly directed the Iowa Department of Education to conduct a two-year study of the need to develop a statewide system of public community colleges.

The Iowa Department of Education submitted its report, "Education Beyond High School Age: The Community College", to the General Assembly in December 1962. The report made recommendations and proposed enabling legislation. It recommended restructuring the county educational system and forming 16 area education districts whose boundaries should be drawn along existing school district lines. These districts were intended to replace the county boards of education and provide programs and services that would complement those provided by local school districts. It was envisioned that the

area districts would also serve as a legal structure through which a statewide system of community colleges could be developed.

In 1963, the 60th General Assembly took no action on the report. An interim legislative committee concluded that it would be appropriate to put vocational and two-year college education together in a single comprehensive system, but separated the county board consolidation issue (area education agencies were later established by the legislature in 1974). Staff of the Iowa Department of Education worked closely with various groups throughout the state, and arrived at conclusions similar to those of the interim committee. Passage of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 provided additional impetus to this planning.

After receiving the interim committee's report in 1964, the 61st General Assembly in 1965 enacted legislation that permitted the development of a statewide system of two-year postsecondary educational institutions, identified as "merged area schools." The Iowa Department of Education was to direct the operation of the development of merged area schools as either area community colleges or area vocational schools.

Legislation authorizing merged area schools, which are now referred to as "community colleges," provided for fiscal support for these institutions through a combination of student tuition and federal, state, and local funds. These resources included a local three-quarter mill levy on the property within the merged area for operational purposes, and an additional three-quarter mill levy for the purchase of sites and construction of buildings. State general aid was distributed to community colleges on the basis of \$2.25 per day for the average daily enrollment of full-time equivalent students who were residents of Iowa. The 63rd General Assembly changed this formula in 1969 to determine enrollment and state aid on the basis of actual contact hours of instruction. Individual colleges were granted authority to establish tuition rates, except that tuition was not to exceed the lowest tuition rate charged by any one of Iowa's three Regent Universities.

Legislation approved in 1965 was enthusiastically received. The Iowa Department of Education received the first plan for a community college on July 5, 1965; one day after the legislation was effective. Plans for the other community colleges followed in quick succession. Although the original plans called for 20 areas, the number was quickly reduced to 16 and later one area was split among adjacent areas. Fourteen (14) community colleges were approved and organized in 1966, and a 15th in January 1967. Fourteen of these community colleges began operation during the 1966-1967 school year.

Seven (7) districts were originally approved as Area Community Colleges: (current names)

North Iowa Area Community College Iowa Lakes Community College Iowa Central Community College Iowa Valley Community College District Eastern Iowa Community College District Des Moines Area Community College Southeastern Community College

Eight (8) were approved as Area Vocational Schools: (current names)

Northeast Iowa Community College Northwest Iowa Community College Hawkeye Community College Kirkwood Community College Western Iowa Tech Community College Iowa Western Community College Southwestern Community College Indian Hills Community College

By July 1970, all of the area vocational-technical high schools and junior colleges had either merged into the new system or were discontinued. All areas of the state were included in community college service areas by July 1971.

The community colleges and area vocational schools grew quickly, both in terms of students served and services offered. In 1983, the Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training Act was established by the legislature adding contracted customized job training to the community colleges' list of services. Other job training programs followed, further expanding the role of community colleges in economic development. Currently, all 15 operate as comprehensive community colleges, offering arts and science (college transfer), vocational preparatory, and adult and continuing education programs. In 1987, Hawkeye Community College, the final Iowa college operating as a vocational school, received approval to operate as a comprehensive community college.

In 1989, the 73rd General Assembly passed Senate File 449, requiring that secondary vocational programs be competency based, and that the competencies be articulated with postsecondary vocational education. This resulted in increased cooperation between local education agencies and the community colleges and a growth in programs in which high school students are awarded college credit for coursework completed in these articulated programs. The Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act of 1989 and later supplemental weighting allowed high school students to concurrently enroll in college credit courses in significantly greater numbers.

In the late 1990s, the majority of community colleges expanded their role in workforce development by becoming Workforce Investment Act primary service providers and housing one-stop centers.

In 1999, the 78th General Assembly passed House File 680 mandating the Department of Education convene a committee to identify and study options for restructuring the governance of Iowa's Community Colleges. The committee's final report, which was submitted to the Legislature in December 1999, reaffirmed the existing governance structure of Iowa's Community Colleges, with locally elected boards of directors and the State Board of Education with responsibility for statewide oversight and coordination. The study recommended the development of a statewide strategic plan for the system of community colleges.

House File 2433 mandates the development of a statewide strategic plan for the statewide system of community colleges every five years. The first plan was approved by community

college presidents, the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees, and the State Board of Education, and forwarded to the legislature by July 2001. Specific goals included:

- 1. Provide high quality, comprehensive educational programs and services accessible to all Iowans.
- 2. Develop high-skilled workers to meet the demands of Iowa's changing economy.
- 3. Maximize financial and human resources to assure provision of comprehensive community college services to Iowans and to allow Iowa to compete on a national and international level.
- 4. Demonstrate effectiveness and efficiency for achieving the system mission and goals.

In January 2003, the State Board of Education amended the Community College Strategic Plan to include a fifth goal:

5. Recruit, enroll, retain, and/or graduate persons of underrepresented groups (i.e., gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status) in all programs.

Within 6 months of implementing HF 2433, a progress report was published summarizing statewide and local community college responses to the five-year plan, "Shaping the Future". Annual progress reports are compiled by the Department of Education and presented to the State Board of Education. In spring 2006, the State Board of Education approved the second five-year statewide community college strategic plan. The following August, the State Board of Education approved performance measures for the plan. Baseline data on each of the measures was reviewed. An annual report is provided to the State Board of Education on these performance measures.

Iowa Code

The statement of policy describing the educational opportunities and services to be provided by community colleges is included in Section 260C.1 of the *Iowa Code*. This statement of policy identifies the following as services that should be included in a community college's mission.

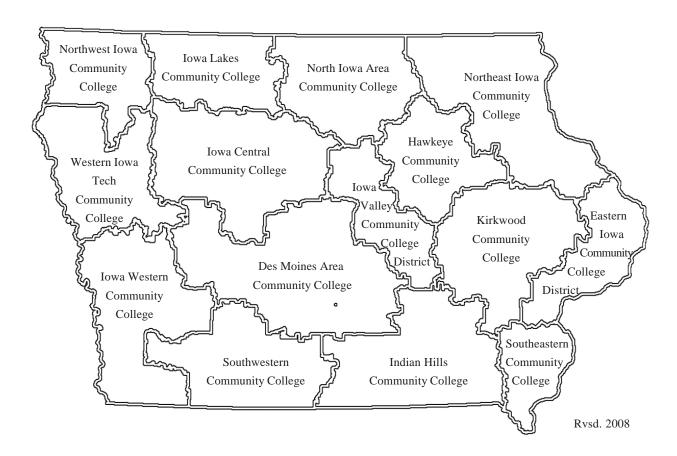
- The first two years of college work, including pre-professional education.
- Vocational and technical training.
- Programs for in-service training and retraining of workers.
- Programs for high school completion for students of post-high school age.
- Programs for all students of high school age who may best serve themselves by enrolling in vocational and technical training, while also enrolled in a local high school, public or private.
- Programs for students of high school age that provide advanced college placement courses not taught at a student's high school while the student

is also enrolled in the high school.

- Student personnel services.
- Community services.
- Vocational education for persons who have academic, socioeconomic, or other handicaps that prevent succeeding in regular vocational education programs.
- Training, retraining, and all necessary preparation for productive employment of all citizens.
- Vocational and technical training for persons who are not enrolled in a high school and who have not completed high school.
- Developmental education for persons who are academically or personally under prepared to succeed in their program of study.

In 2006, the Department of Education created a book entitled *Forty Years of Growth and Achievement: A History of Iowa's Community Colleges*, which details the statewide, institutional history of the community colleges. For more information on the history of Iowa's community colleges, see this publication.

IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Area 1 (NICC)
Northeast Iowa
Community College
Administrative Center
Box 400
Calmar, IA 52132

Area 2 (NIACC) North Iowa Area Community College Administrative Center 500 College Dr. Mason City, IA 50401

Area 3 (ILCC)
IOWA LAKES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
19 SOUTH 7TH ST.
ESTHERVILLE, IA 51334

Area 4 (NCC)
Northwest Iowa
Community College
Administrative Center
603 West Park St.
Sheldon, IA 51201

Area 5 (ICCC)
IOWA CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
330 AVE. M
FORT DODGE, IA 50501

Area 6 (IVCCD)
Iowa Valley Community
College District
Administrative Center
3702 South Center St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Area 7 (HCC)
Hawkeye
Community College
Administrative Center
1501 East Orange Rd.,
Box 8015
Waterloo, IA 50704-8015

Area 9 (EICCD)
EASTERN IOWA COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
306 WEST RIVER RD.
DAVENPORT, IA 52801

Area 10 (KCC)
Kirkwood
Community College
Administrative Center
6301 Kirkwood Blvd.,
S.W., Box 2068
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2068

AREA 11 (DMACC)
DES MOINES AREA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
2006 SOUTH ANKENY BLVD.
ANKENY, IA, 50021

Area 12 (WITCC)
Western Iowa Tech
Community College
Administrative Center
4647 Stone Ave. Box 5199
Sioux City, IA 51102-5199

Area 13 (IWCC)
IOWA WESTERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
2700 COLLEGE Rd., Box 4-C
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51502-3004

Area 14 (SWCC)
SOUTHWESTERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1501 WEST TOWNLINE ST.
CRESTON, IA 50801

AREA 15 (IHCC)
INDIAN HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
525 GRANDVIEW AVE.
OTTUMWA, IA 52501

Area 16 (SCC)
SOUTHEASTERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1015 SOUTH GEAR AVE.,
BOX 180
WEST BURLINGTON, IA
52655-0180